The Committee, which was constituted on 24.6.2004, was to submit its report within two weeks. Though it has held a number of meetings, in view of the complexity of the issues involved and the magnitude of the task, the Committee has not been able to complete the work. The Chairman of the Committee has been asked to expedite its report.

Contaminated drinking water in Delhi

†1309. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn towards the report published by the Centre for Science and Environment in which it has been mentioned that there is increase in diseases in Delhites due to polluted drinking water;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have asked for the information from the concerned departments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. However, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has informed that it is not true that water borne diseases are spreading in Delhi due to supply of drinking water. The treated water leaving the treatment plants, is tested for physiochemical, microbiological, toxic metals, pesticides, trihaomethanes etc. from outside agencies like National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur. None of these parameters have been found beyond the prescribed limits laid down by Bureau of Indian Standards IS-10500-1993.

In addition agencies like National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) and Municipal Corporation of Delhi are also independently testing the drinking water being supplied by DJB to ascertain its potability. The joint survey with MCD health authorities carried

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

out on 8.7.2004 showed that out of the 429 samples that were collected, 426 were found satisfactory.

The DJB conducts weekly/fortnightly tests of water in its zonal laboratories. During April to June, 2004, 27970 samples were lifted from the distribution system all over Delhi out of which 27889 were found satisfactory. Hence the percentage of satisfactory samples comes to 99.0%. 1 % samples were found unsatisfactory which were mainly due to corroded pipelines, use of online boosters and fault at consumers' end. These issues were promptly attended to and rectified in the areas.

Extension of housing and other services to NGOs

1310. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made plans to use NGOs in extending various services and housing in urban areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the NGOs which are registered with Government for such purposes;

(c) whether there is any rule which says only Delhi-based NGOs would get land and patronage and money from Government for urban based social work;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) to what extent Government have encouraged NGOs from Andhra Pradesh to work in Delhi on urban projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) Government of India (GOI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have signed an agreement in October, 2003 to collaborate on the project entitled "National Strategy for Urban Poor".